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Rawlins, Arline McLean (Perkins), 1899-1962 (MSS 647)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 647 RAWLINS, Arline McLean (Perkins), 1899-1962

1 box. 9 folders. 118 items. 1937-2002. Originals, photocopies, and photographs

SC2018.100.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Arline Perkins Rawlins was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 3 February 1899. She attended Gunston Hall in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Western Kentucky State Normal and Teacher's College in 1923 with an AB degree where she taught Saturday classes in the college's art department. In 1946 Rawlins became the art supervisor for the city of Bowling Green. She studied art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Mellon Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. during World War II. In 1952 she earned her BA and then her MA in 1958 at Western Kentucky University. Rawlins was an oil and palette knife painter but is best known for her hooked rug designs, including *Kentucky Stair Runner*, featuring twenty famous Kentucky scenes. The rug won first place at the September 1949 Kentucky State Fair. Designs created by Rawlins were featured in many national magazines, including *Woman's Day*, *American Home*, and *Family Circle*. Rawlins married Samuel Perry Rawlins and had a daughter Alicia (Rawlins) McFarland. She hybridized iris and was a national judge of the American Iris Society and a national garden and exhibition judge. Many of her rug designs included flowers. Rawlins passed away on 25 February 1962 in Bowling Green.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection relates chiefly to Arline Rawlins' role as a designer and maker of hooked rugs. Folder 2 includes manuscript copies of articles written by Rawlins related to hooked rugs; it also includes correspondence with editors from magazines related to Rawlins' work and her articles. Folder 3 includes copies of published articles that resulted from the material in Folder 2. Folder 4 includes photos, correspondence, and published material related to a spectacular hooked rug stair runner titled "Kentucky Stair Runner." This is the piece that won a first prize at the 1949 Kentucky State Fair. Folder 5 includes hand cut stencils for the alphabet as well an illustration of a rug that incorporates the letters. Folder 6 includes a number of photographs of Rawlin's rugs. Folder 7 includes a pen and ink sketch of the façade of the Warren County Courthouse in Bowling Green, Kentucky; also included are two linoleum prints made with the drawing. Folder 8 includes loan and exhibit information for the Kentucky Stair Runner when it was included in the "Kentucky Women Artist" exhibit at the Kentucky Museum in 2001.

Information related to Rawlins hooked rug business can be found in the Temple Family Papers, Box 11, Folder 3 “Pennyroyal Enterprises—Proposed company for selling hooked rug patterns.” These materials were created in collaboration with Arline’s lifelong friend Ruth Hines Temple, who later was the Head of the Art Department at Western Kentucky University.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Rawlins, Arline (Perkins)	1937-2002	118 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Manuscript articles and correspondence related to Rawlins’ rugs	1937-1952	28 items
Folder 3	Published articles and news clippings about Rawlins’ rugs	1949-1953	16 items
Folder 4	Information about Kentucky Stair Runner rug	1949-1950	7 items
Folder 5	Stencil for individual letters of the alphabet and illustration of a rug	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Photographs	1952; n.d.	41 items
Folder 7	Drawings of Warren County Courthouse	n.d.	3 items
Folder 8	Kentucky Women Artist exhibit at Kentucky Museum, WKU	2000-2002	17 items
Folder 9	Oversized items – magazine articles and a floral rug design	1950-1951	3 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS RAWLINS, Arline McLean (Perkins), 1937-2002
647 1899-1962

Material about the hooked rug designs created and executed by Arline McLean (Perkins) Rawlins of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Includes correspondence, published and unpublished articles, and photographs.
1 box. 9 folders. 118 items. Originals, photocopies, and photographs.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Art
Artists
Courthouses – Warren County – Relating to F7
Interior decorating
Kentucky Museum – WKU F8
Kentucky Women Artists (exhibition) – Relating to F8
Rugs, Hooked F2-6
Rugs – Pattern F9

Smith/Jeffrey 09/21/2018